

Town of Darien
RTM Education Committee
Meeting: Nov 26, 2012, 8:00pm

RECEIVED
NOV 30 2012
TOWN CLERK'S OFFICE

Attendees: Lois Schneider, Peter Kelly, Sandy Savage, Arden Broecking, Chris Camuti, Susan Morrison, Barbara Thorne, Joan Davis, Christa McNamara, Sumathi Ebrahimi, Emily McDermott, Ellen Coyne

Absent: Martens, Burke, Ferretti, Maroney

Meeting Minutes:

Quorum for the meeting was met.

Committee Elections

1. Joan Davis asked if there were any nominations for Education Committee chair. McNamara nominated Dennis Maroney. Nomination was seconded. Broecking nominated Lois Schneider but Schneider declined the nomination. No other nominations. Maroney was elected chair: 12 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain
2. Joan Davis asked if there were any nominations for vice chair of the Education Committee. Lois Schneider nominated Christa McNamara. Nomination was seconded. No other nominations. McNamara was elected vice chair: 12 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain
3. As elected vice chair, McNamara asked if there were nominations for Education Committee secretary. Savage nominated Peter Kelly. Nomination was seconded. No other nominations. Kelly was elected secretary: 12 Yea, 0 Nay, and 0 Abstain

General Discussion

1. Committee asked Dennis Maroney to:
 - publish meeting dates for the Committee for 2012/1013
 - ask for an electronic copy of the budget for those that did not want a paper copy
 - highlight key/critical issue BOE meetings that were important for the Committee members to attend or watch on Channel 79
2. Committee was reminded about the Dec 4th, 7pm presentation at Holmes School of World Languages program by the School Administration. All townspeople are invited.
3. Committee was reminded that the BOE budget meetings will start Jan 3rd at 7pm. January and February are heavy meeting date months for the school budget. Committee members are encouraged to attend or watch on Channel 79.

4. Each committee member identified a key issue that they believed required close review and understanding by the Committee for the next year. These issues included:
- Overcrowding of the schools,
 - Potential Fine Arts education downgrade as budgets tighten,
 - World Language program implementation,
 - Budget,
 - Better school focus on Academic successes along with the Athletic successes,
 - Making lawmakers understand their responsibilities for funding Government mandates at State and Federal levels,
 - Support of the new Special Ed Director to ensure fairness and positive improvements.

Meeting adjourned at 8:50pm

Peter Kelly
Nov 30, 2012